

ASHINGTON
Urban District Council.

REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER

For the Year 1926.

EDWARD T. COLVILLE, M.B., B.S., B.Hy., D.P.H.

Medical Officer of Health.

ASHINGTON.
PORTLAND HOUSE PRINTING WORKS CO., LIMITED.
1927.

Report of Medical Officer for 1926.

1. STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE DISTRICT.

The district is bounded on the North, East and West by agricultural land in the Morpeth Rural District, and on the South by the river Wansbeck.

The surface soil all over our area is very shallow, resting on a deep bed of clay, a consequence of this being changes of temperature night and morning, due to the easy receptivity of heat by the surface soil, and the equally easy parting of this absorbed heat at sundown.

There is but one staple industry in the district, namely Coal Mining which the bulk of the population find employment. In both wards the majority of the house property belongs to the Ashington Coal Company, built in rows of two storey buildings.

The ash-pits now all covered in conformity with the Bye-laws of the Council, and privies of the earth system attached to the ash-pits.

Population—At the census in 1911 our population was 24,583.

„	1922	„	29,406.
---	------	---	---------

For this year :—

The Registrar General estimates our population in the middle of this year at 31,810—This estimate will be used in all the necessary calculations for Birth and Death rates, etc.

BUILDINGS, DWELLINGS, ROOMS AND FAMILIES CENSUS 1921.

Buildings.			Popul- ation 1921		Structurally Separate Dwellings occupied by Private Families or vacant.										Total Rooms								
In Course of Erection	Not containing dwellings	Completed. containing dwellings																					
12	0	4178	23136	11349	11349	I Undivided Private Houses	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
0	0	153	1349	653	696	II Structurally Divided Private Houses	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
0	0	427	3697	1749	1948	III Blocks of Flats, Tenements, etc.	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
0	42	190	1078	507	571	IV Shops	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
0	87	15	128	61	67	V Others ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
12	129	4963	29388	14142	15246	Total	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
						Pr'cip'l Bldgs ingro'p'd	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
						V, (others) above	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
						{ Offices, Factories	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
						Warehouses	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	18	7	44			Workshops	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	0	2	19			Hotels	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	0	3	46			Institutions	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	13	0	0			Places of Worship	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	4	0	0			Places of Amusement	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
						Total private families therein	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
						Total	3184	2180	147	22	5533	15394	15394	15394	15394	15394	15394	15394	15394	15394	15394	15394	15394
						Pr'cip'l Bldgs ingro'p'd	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
						V, (others) above	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
						{ Offices, Factories	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
						Warehouses	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
						Workshops	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
						Hotels	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
						Institutions	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
						Places of Worship	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
						Places of Amusement	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
						Total private families therein	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
						Total	3184	2180	147	22	5533	15394	15394	15394	15394	15394	15394	15394	15394	15394	15394	15394	15394

ACREAGE, POPULATION, PRIVATE FAMILIES AND DWELLINGS.

	Area in Statute Acres	Total Population.					Private Families and Dwellings.				
		1921					Population				
		Persons	Males	Females	Prs. pr. Acre	Private Families	Population in Private Families	Str'ctur'ly sep. dwell'ly Occupied	Rooms Occupied	Room per Person	Room per Person
Ashington U. D. and Ward ...	3041	24583	15246	14142	9.7	6093	29233	5436	19067	0.65	0.65
Ashington ...	2364	6155	4560	4399	3.8	1841	8873	1703	6561	0.74	0.74
Hirst ...	677	16428	10686	9743	30.2	4252	20360	3733	12506	0.61	0.61

**PRIVATE FAMILIES CLASSIFIED BY SIZE OF FAMILY, ROOMS OCCUPIED
AND DENSITY OF OCCUPATION.**

Number of Persons in Family	Number of Private Families occupying the following Number of Rooms								Total Private Families.		Population in Private Families	Rooms occupied	Average Number of Rooms per person	Density of Occupation. Population at following densities of occupation (rooms pr person)					
	1		2		3		4		5					6-7		8-9		10 and over	
									No.	%									
1	32	22	21	12	2	0	0	0	89	1.5	89	197	2.21	0	0	0	0	0	0
2	134	183	250	104	30	13	2	0	716	11.8	1432	1914	1.34	0	0	268	8	8	8
3	210	271	424	200	45	21	7	0	1178	19.4	3534	3241	0.92	0	630	813	0	0	0
4	71	222	517	226	64	19	5	3	1127	18.5	4508	3485	0.77	284	4	884	2068	2068	2068
5	30	171	470	217	63	20	4	1	976	16.0	4880	3137	0.64	150	855	2350	1085	1085	1085
6	8	114	349	188	66	12	2	1	740	12.1	4440	2466	0.56	60	672	3222	306	306	306
7	2	38	265	149	57	11	1	1	524	8.6	3668	1845	0.50	280	1855	1043	455	455	455
8	1	23	154	124	46	4	0	0	352	5.8	2816	1260	0.45	192	1232	1360	32	32	32
9	0	7	79	77	34	5	0	0	202	3.3	1818	758	0.42	63	1404	351	0	0	0
10	1	4	30	40	23	2	0	0	100	1.6	1000	386	0.39	50	700	250	0	0	0
11	0	0	13	23	16	1	0	0	53	0.9	583	217	0.37	143	429	11	0	0	0
12	0	0	2	11	2	0	0	0	15	0.2	180	60	0.33	24	156	0	0	0	0
13	0	0	2	7	4	1	0	1	15	0.2	195	78	0.40	26	156	0	0	0	0
14	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	0.0	14	4	0.29	14	0	0	0	0	0
15 & over	0	0	2	2	1	0	0	0	5	0.1	76	19	0.25	61	15	0	0	0	0
Total Private Families	489	1055	2578	1381	453	109	21	7	6093	0.10	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Population in Private Families	1444	4181	12627	7585	2347	535	84	43	0	0	29233	0	1347	8108	10552	4044	4044	4044	4044
Rooms Occupied	489	2103	7734	5524	2265	689	179	84	0	0	19067	0.65	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	8.0	17.3	42.4	22.7	7.4	1.8	0.3	0.1	100.0	19.21	Percentage of Families living in various units of Occupation.								
2.1	15.2	45.6	10.2	24.3	10.2	1.9	0.6	0.1	100.0	19.11									

The following Statistics are printed in accordance with the Ministry of Health's memorandum :—

1.—GENERAL STATISTICS.

Area (acres)—3056·996.

Population—31,810

Rateable Value £99,121

No. of inhabited houses (1921)—5,506. Sum represented by a penny rate—£413/0/1

2.—EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS OF THE YEAR

		Total	Male	Female	
Births	}	Legitimate ...	720	360	360
		Illegitimate	31	13	18
					} Birth Rate (R.G.) 17·6

Deaths	381	221	160	Death Rate (R G) 10·6
--------	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	------------------------

Number of Woman dying in, or in consequence of Child-birth	}	from sepsis—1
		„ other causes—3

Deaths of Infants under one year of age :—

Legitimate—73	Illegitimate—8	Total—81
---------------	----------------	----------

Deaths from Measles (all ages)—1

„ Whooping Cough (all ages)—41

„ Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age)—17

VITAL STATISTICS.

BIRTHS—During the year the total number of births registered in the district was 730. This is equivalent to a birth-rate of 23·22 per 1000 population. For 1925 the rate was 25·96 per 1000 and the total births 824 in number. Comparing the figures for this district with the Registrar General's table X, we find the birth-rate per 1000 population to be :—

For England and Wales	...	...	17·8
„ London alone	...	...	17·1
„ 105 Great Towns	...	...	18·2 (population over 50,000)
„ 157 Smaller „	...	...	17·6 („ from 20,000 to 50,000)

Our birth-rate is therefore practically 32% over the average of 157 smaller towns amongst whom we are classified. It was 42% last year.

The illegitimate births registered in the district are 22, (10 males and 12 females). This gives an illegitimate birth-rate of ·69 per 1000 and 30·14 per 1000 children born.

The following table gives the monthly births, sex and and distribution :—

Ashington Urban District. BIRTHS—SEX AND DISTRIBUTION, 1926.

Months	Ashington Ward.			Hirst Ward.			District.			Illegitimate.				
	Male	F'm'l'e	Total	Male	F'm'l'e	Total	Male	F'm'l'e	Total	Ash't'n		Hirst.		Dist.
										M	F	M	F	
January ...	6	8	14	32	22	54	38	30	68	2	0	4	0	6
February ...	5	6	11	15	17	32	20	23	43	0	0	0	0	0
March ...	5	5	10	31	30	61	36	35	71	0	0	1	2	3
April ...	8	8	16	20	26	46	28	34	62	0	0	0	2	2
May ...	10	10	20	34	20	54	44	30	74	0	0	0	1	1
June ...	7	7	14	23	24	47	30	31	61	0	1	0	0	1
July ...	8	5	13	24	26	50	32	31	63	0	0	0	2	2
August ...	8	6	14	25	20	45	33	26	59	0	0	0	0	0
September ...	8	7	15	14	24	38	22	31	53	0	1	1	0	2
October ...	3	6	9	16	26	42	19	32	51	0	0	0	2	2
November ...	7	7	14	23	21	44	30	28	58	0	0	1	0	1
December ...	8	9	17	22	28	50	30	37	67	0	0	1	1	2
Total ...	83	84	167	279	284	563	362	368	730	2	2	8	10	22

DEATHS—The total number of deaths from all causes registered in the district for the year is 367, but there were 8 deaths of non-residents registered here (outward transfers) to be deducted, and there were 20 deaths of residents in the district registered elsewhere (inward transfers) to be added giving 379 as the corrected total number of deaths for the year. This is equal to a death-rate of 11·90 per 1000 population. The corrected total last year was 334 and the death-rate was 10·52.

Comparing these figures with the Registrar's Table X. the Annual death-rates per 1000 population are :—

For England and Wales	...	11 6
„ London alone	...	11·6
„ 105 Large Towns	...	11·6 population over 50,000
„ 157 Smaller Towns	...	10 6 „ between 20,000 to 50,000

Our death-rate therefore exceeds that for England and Wales by ·30 per 1000 and exceeds that of the 157 Smaller towns amongst which we are classified, by 1 30 per 1000.

It was ·68 per 1000 last year.

Ashington Urban District. CAUSES OF AND AGES AT DEATH.
(M.O.H. Table No 3).

Causes of Death.	Nett Deaths at the Sub-joined Ages of Residents whether occurring within or without the district.									Total Deaths in Public Institutions
	All Ages	Under 1 yr.	1 and und 2	2 and und 5	5 and und 15	15 und 25	25 and und 45	45 und 65	65 and upwds	
Enteric Fever	2	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	1
Small Pox	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Measles	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Scarlet Fever	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Whooping Cough	41	10	14	15	2	0	0	0	0	0
Diphtheria and Croup	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Influenza	9	2	0	0	0	0	1	1	5	0
Erysipelas	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	21	0	0	0	2	3	11	5	0	3
Tuberculous Meningitis	2	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other Tub'rc'lo's diseases	8	0	1	3	0	2	1	1	0	1
Cancer, malignant disease	16	0	0	0	0	0	1	3	12	3
Rheumatic Fever	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1
Meningitis	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Organic heart disease	34	0	0	0	0	1	4	15	14	2
Bronchitis	40	7	2	1	0	0	1	7	22	2
Pneumonia	35	12	8	4	4	1	2	1	3	4
Other respiratory disease	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
Diarrhoea etc (under 2 yrs)	17	14	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Appendicitis & Typhlitis	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Cirrhosis of Liver	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	1
Nephritis and Bright's Disease	9	0	0	0	0	0	2	2	5	1
Puerperal Fever	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Parturition	7	0	0	0	0	0	7	0	0	4
Congenital Debility	26	24	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Violence, not suicide	13	1	0	0	0	1	4	6	1	7
Suicide	7	0	0	0	0	0	3	4	0	3
Other defined diseases	45	8	2	2	1	2	4	6	20	11
Causes ill-defined or unknown	3	1	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0
Diabetes	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	1
Cerebral Hemorrhage	17	0	0	0	0	0	0	5	14	0
Arteriosclerosis	13	0	0	0	0	0	0	7	6	2
Ulcer Stomach	2	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	2
Total	379	81	32	28	10	14	43	68	103	49

INFANTILE MORTALITY.—The total number of deaths of children under 1 year is 81 this year compared with 85 for 1925. This gives a death-rate of 2.54 per 1000 population and a mortality rate of 107.9 per 1000 children born. Last year the death-rate was 2.68 and the mortality rate 103.2.

Comparing these figures again with the Registrar General's table X. the Infantile Mortality Rates are given :—

For England and Wales 70 deaths per 1000 children born.

„ London alone	64	„	„
„ 105 Great Towns	73	„	„
„ 157 Smaller Towns	67	„	„

Our Infantile Mortality rate is therefore 36 per 1000 children born in excess of that of the 157 smaller towns among which we are classified. It is noteworthy however that a large proportion of the deaths (27% of them) are due to premature birth and causes associated therewith, e.g. Atrophy, Debility, Marasmus, and Injury at Birth, 23% are due to Brouchitis Pneumonia and 12% to Whooping which was prevalent during April, May and June in a very virulent form. In 1925 there was only one whooping cough death as compared to 10 for 1926. Enteritis and Diarrhœa was responsible for 14 deaths.

Comparative mortality table during the past years is as follows :—

Year	1917	1918	1919	1920	1921	1922	1923	1924	1925	1926
Infant deaths from Diarrhœa and Enteritis ...	8	19	25	22	17	5	15	22	10	14
Infantile Mortality ...	112	119	147	134	113	105	82	106	85	81

INFANTILE MORTALITY DURING THE YEAR 1926.

Causes of Death.	Under 1 wk.	1-2 weeks.	2-3 weeks.	3-4 weeks.	Total und. 1 month	1-3 months.	3-6 Months.	6-9 Months.	9-12 Months	Total Deaths under 1 year
Small Pox ...	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Chicken Pox ...	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Measles ...	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1
Scarlet Fever ...	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Diphtheria and Croup ...	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Whooping Cough ...	0	0	0	0	0	4	2	1	3	10
Diarrhœa and Enteritis ...	0	0	0	0	0	5	8	1	0	14
Tuberculous Meningitis ...	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1
Abdominal Tuberculosis ...	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other Tubercular Diseases	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Premature Birth, Atrophy										
Debility and Marasmus ...	17	2	1	1	21	1	0	0	0	22
Congenital Malformation...	1	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	2
Atelectasis ...	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Injury at Birth ...	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Erysipelas ...	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Syphilis ...	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1
Rickets ...	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1
Meningitis <i>not</i> Tuberculous	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Convulsion s... ..	1	0	0	0	1	0	3	0	0	4
Gastritis ...	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Laryngitis ...	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Bronchitis ...	0	0	1	1	2	1	2	2	0	7
Pneumonia (all forms)	0	0	0	0	0	2	3	5	2	12
Suffocation, overlaying	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1
Other Causes ...	0	2	0	0	2	0	0	1	0	3
Influenza ...	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	2
Total ...	19	4	2	2	27	13	23	12	6	81

Ashington Urban District. VITAL STATISTICS OF WHOLE DISTRICT
DURING YEARS 1922-1926 INCLUSIVE. (L.G.B. Table No. 1).

Year.	Popu- lation esti- mated to middle of each year.	Births.			Total Deaths Registered in the District.		Transferable Deaths.		Nett Deaths belonging to the District.			
		Uncorrected Number	Nett		No.	Rate.	Of Non- residents Registered in the District	Of Resi- dents not Registered in the District	Under 1 Year of age		At All Ages	
			No.	Rate.					No.	Rate	No.	Rate
1922	30490	879	912	29'91	400	13'12	3	50	105	116'7	447	14'66
1923	30910	884	889	28'71	311	10'95	7	33	82	92.24	337	10'88
1924	31400	919	925	29'41	346	11'00	9	36	106	115'3	376	11'95
1925	31740	824	830	26'14	307	9'67	4	31	85	103'2	334	10'52
1926	31810	730	751	23'58	367	11'52	8	20	81	107.9	379	11'90

ZYMOTIC DEATH RATE.—This term includes deaths from the following 7 diseases only
They are included among others in Table III. :—

Disease.	No. of Deaths.	Rate per 1000 population.
Smallpox ...	0	·0
Scarlet Fever ...	1	·031
Enteric Fever ...	2	·063
Enteritis (Diarrhoea) under 2 yrs	17	·534
Diphtheria ...	1	·031
Measles ...	1	·031
Whooping Cough	41	1·287
	63	1·977

Among the other principal causes of death are the following :—

	Cases	Death Rate
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	21	·659
Non-Pulmonary	10	·314
Pneumonia—both forms	35	1·099
Bronchitis	40	1·256
Influenza	9	·283

Registrar General's Table—BIRTH RATE, DEATH RATE, AND ANALYSIS OF MORTALITY DURING THE YEAR 1926.

(Provisional figures. The rates for England and Wales have been calculated on a population estimated to the middle of 1926, while those for the towns have been calculated on populations estimated to the middle of 1925. The mortality rates refer to the whole population as regards England and Wales, but only to civilians as regards London and the groups of towns,

	Birth-Rate per 1000 Total Population	Annual Death Rate per 1000 Population.								Rate per 1000 Births.				Percentage of Total Deaths			
		All Causes	Enteric Fever	Small Pox	Measles	Scarlet Fever	Whooping Cough	Diphtheria	Influenza	Violence	Diarrhoea and Enteritis under 2 years.	Total Deaths under 1 year.	Causes of Death certified by Registered Medical Practitioners	Inquest Cases	Uncertified Causes of Death.		
England and Wales	17.8	11.6	0.01	0.00	0.09	0.02	0.10	0.07	0.22	0.47	8.7	70	91.8	7.2	1.0		
105 County Boroughs & Great Towns including London ..	18.2	11.6	0.01	0.00	0.12	0.02	0.10	0.10	0.22	0.43	11.8	73	92.0	7.5	0.5		
158 Smaller Towns (1921 Adjusted Populations 20,000—50,000)	17.6	10.6	0.01	0.00	0.07	0.02	0.11	0.06	0.23	0.40	6.6	67	92.6	6.3	1.1		
London	17.1	11.6	0.01	0.00	0.20	0.02	0.05	0.12	0.17	0.48	11.8	64	90.6	4.6	0.0		

NETT MONTHLY DEATHS IN EACH WARD.

Months	Ashington Ward		Hirst Ward		Total All Ages
	All Ages	Under 1 year	All Ages	Under 1 year	
January... ..	14	1	10	2	24
February	15	2	19	5	34
March	7	0	14	6	21
April	11	0	29	8	40
May	26	6	47	12	73
June	13	2	30	7	43
July	7	1	18	2	25
August	5	0	11	4	16
September	7	3	8	3	15
October	5	2	24	10	29
November	8	0	23	3	31
December	1	0	15	2	16
Total	119	17	248	64	367

The Registrar General supplies the following Table :—

CAUSES OF DEATH 1926.

Causes of Death.				M	F	Causes of Death.				M	F
All Causes		...	...	221	160	23 Appendicitis and typhlitis		...	0	0	
1	Enteric Fever	...	...	1	1	24 Cirrhosis of Liver		...	0	2	
2	Small-pox	...	...	0	0	25 Acute and Chronic Nephritis		...	5	2	
3	Measles	...	...	1	0	26 Puerperal Sepsis...		...	0	0	
4	Scarlet Fever	...	...	1	0	27 Other accidents and diseases of pregnancy and parturition		...	0	6	
5	Whooping Cough	...	...	17	24	28 Congenital debility and malformation, premature birth		...	15	10	
6	Diphtheria	...	...	0	1	29 Suicide		...	4	3	
7	Influenza	...	...	6	4	30 Other Deaths from Violence		...	9	1	
8	Encephalitis Lethargica	...	...	0	1	31 Other Defined Diseases		...	39	21	
9	Meningococcal Meningitis	...	...	0	0	32 Causes ill-defined or unknown		...	4	3	
10	Tuberculosis of respiratory system	...	...	14	6	Special Causes (including above)		...			
11	Other Tuberculous diseases	...	...	4	5	Poliomyelitis		...	0	0	
12	Cancer, malignant disease	...	...	8	9	Polioencephalitis		...	0	0	
13	Rheumatic Fever	...	...	1	0	Death of Infants		...			
14	Diabetes	...	...	0	2	Total		...	51	30	
15	Cerebral Hæmorrhage, &c.	...	...	12	8	under 1 year		...	3	5	
16	Heart Disease	...	...	15	10	Total Births		...	373	378	
17	Arterio-sclerosis	...	...	7	5	Legitimate		...	360	360	
18	Bronchitis	...	...	18	12	Illegitimate		...	13	18	
19	Pneumonia (all forms)	...	...	26	15						
20	Other respiratory diseases	...	...	3	1						
21	Ulcer Stomach or duodenum	...	...	2	0						
22	Diarrhœa, &c. (under 2 years)	...	...	9	8						
Population—31,810											

General Registered Office, Somerset House, London, W.C.

AMBULANCE FACILITIES—One horse ambulance for Infectious diseases.

HOSPITAL ACCOMMODATION—The Isolation Hospital is situated south east of North Seaton Railway Station. It is a brick building consisting of a seven roomed house with two wards attached, each ward containing 6 beds. In addition to this there is an iron building consisting of 3 wards and 2 Nurses rooms; It will accommodate 33 patients. A discharge block is in the course of erection which when complete will give greater facilities in dealing with discharge of patients from the Hospital whilst at the same time it will bring the Hospital more up to-date.

MEDICAL RELIEF—ASHINGTON, &C, HOSPITAL.

MEDICAL RELIEF.—The "Ashington and District Nursing Association Hospital and Infirmary" is situated to the south-east of the railway station, and in close proximity thereto. It has accommodation for 51 beds and 3 children's cots.

The minimum annual subscription is ten shillings for :—

1. The services of the District Nurse.
2. Care at the Hospital if necessary.
3. Use of Motor Ambulance for Stretcher Cases.

Two Motor Ambulances for non-infectious and accident cases.

The following is extracted from the Association's Report for the year 1926.

ADMISSIONS.	Adult—Males	...	508
	Females	...	264
	Children	...	287
			<hr/> 1059
Medical Cases	...	...	119
Surgical Cases	...	...	698
Accident Cases	...	...	242
			<hr/> 1059

TUBERCULOSIS DISPENSARY—This is situated centrally in the district and is maintained by the County Council, the Tuberculosis Medical Officer attending on Thursdays each week. This dispensary serves in addition districts outside our area.

MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE

The Centre was held in the Princess Ballroom, and during the year has been opened 76 times, on Monday each week from 2 to 4 p.m., and since June on Monday and Tuesday from 2 to 4 p.m. The total attendance during the year has been 13972, or an average of 183 as compared with 5502 and an average of 114 during the previous year.

Our warmest thanks are due to the loyal band of voluntary workers, who have so ably assisted us and made it possible to deal with this great number. The great increase in the number of attendances has been largely due to the coal stoppage and many of its concurrent miseries to the expectant or nursing mothers and children have been alleviated.

The M.O.H attends the centre assisted by two Health Visitors and a number of voluntary lady workers. Babies are weighed at each session and records kept and consultations given on the health of mothers, expectant mothers and babies, every encouragement being given to forward the welfare of mother and child.

MILK FOODS.—During the year dried milk for expectant or nursing mothers and infants was sold in the Welfare Centre at cost price amounting to 6906 lbs and to the value of £502/4/3, in addition a free distribution of dried milk and fresh milk supplied by local dealers was made to those urgent and necessitous cases approved by the Maternity and Child Welfare Committee and the Council and coming within the regulation scale of income as approved by the Ministry of Health. The prolonged coal stoppage, the prolonged and increasing poverty of the district due to the loss of employment of the thousands of miners in our area resulted in a greatly increased distribution of free food and without a doubt great benefit was conferred in so far as the welfare of these unexpected necessitous cases concerned. During the year 25637 lbs of dried milk valued £1744/8/5 and fresh milk valued £511/13/0 were distributed free to approved necessitous cases.

Suitable premises belonging to the Council are urgently required to carry out efficiently the work of this department, the handicap of unsuitable premises is keenly felt by us and until these are secured it will not be possible to develop ante-natal work.

Infant deaths—Legitimate	73	Rate per 1000 births—Legitimate	97.25
Illegitimate	8	Illegitimate	10.65

WORK OF THE HEALTH VISITORS.

Much good work is done by the daily visits of the Health Visitors to the homes of the people, advising mothers in the care of their babies.

Birth Notifications received from Doctors	...	1
" " " " Midwife	...	669
" " " " Parents	...	69
Number of Births not notified	...	17
Total Births Registered		756
Number of Infants supervised—First Visits	...	837
Re-Visits	...	2955
Number of Re-Visits to Children from 1 to 5 years	...	1997
Babies Wholly breast fed	...	504
" Wholly hand fed	...	189
" Partly hand fed	...	63

SPECIAL VISITS BY HEALTH VISITORS.

Disease.	No. of Cases Notified.	No. of Cases Visited
Ophthalmia neonatorum ...	3	3
Measles ...	0	48
Whooping Cough...	0	62
Scarlet Fever ...	25	25
Chicken Pox ...	124	124

STAFF OF PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT.

Office.	Name.	Qualifications.	Whole or part time.	Salary con. under P.H. Acts or Exchequer Grants
Medical Officer of Health ... Medical Superintendent (Isolation Hospital) Medical Superintendent (Maternity & Child Welfare)	Edward T. Colville	M.B., B.S., B. Hy D.P.H.	Part time	P.H.A's
Sanitary Inspector ... Housing Inspector ... Meat Inspector ...	Thomas Cook ...	R.S.I. M. San. I.A.	Whole time	P.H.A's
Additional Sanitary Inspector... Small-pox Inspector ...	Joseph C. Hicks ...	R.S.I. M. San I.A.	Whole time	P.H.A's
Inspector under Shops' Act ...	Joseph Howey ...	—	Part time	
Health Visitors ...	Miss M. Braithwaite	(Gen'r'l Hospit'l Fever C.M.B. H.V.Cer, R.S.I. San. R.S.I.	Whole time	
	Miss I. Taylor ...	C.M.B.	Whole time	

A. PROFESSIONAL NURSING IN THE HOME.

(a) GENERAL. The Ashington and District Nursing Association maintains a staff of visiting nurses for general nursing in the homes of the sick.

(b) FOR INFECTIOUS DISEASES. The two health visitors devote part of their time to the visiting of infectious diseases such as Infantile Diarrhoea, Ophthalmia Neonatorum, Pneumonia, Measles, etc.

In Special cases nursing assistance is provided by the Council, i.e. Enteric Fever, when adequate isolation can be obtained and nursing assistance is found necessary.

(c) TUBERCULOSIS. Cases are visited by the tuberculosis nurses engaged by Northumberland County Council.

B. MIDWIVES.

The number practising in the area is 12. None are employed by the Council.

CHEMICAL AND BACTERIOLOGICAL WORK—The bacteriological examinations of specimens in aid of diagnosis are carried out by arrangement with the County Council at the College of Medicine, Newcastle-on-Tyne. The following Table shows to what extent this arrangement is utilised :—

ASHINGTON URBAN DISTRICT BACTERIOLOGICAL EXAMINATIONS AND RESULTS DURING THE YEAR 1926.

	Diphtheria.			Tubercule.			Enteric Fever.			Total Specimens Examined.			
	Pos.	Neg.	Indef.	Pos.	Neg.	Indef.	Pos.	Neg.	Indef.	Pos.	Neg.	Indef.	T'tl
Sent in by Dr. Moore, County Tuberculosis Officer ...	—	—	—	19	115	—	—	—	—	19	115	—	134
Sent in by other Medical Practitioners ...	—	10	—	2	10	—	5	2	4	7	22	0	29
Totals ...	—	10	—	21	125	—	5	2	4	26	137	0	163
Cases notified ...			4			63			11				

ADOPTIVE ACTS IN OPERATION IN THE DISTRICT :—

Infectious Diseases Prevention Act, 1890
Public Health Acts Amendment Act, 1890
Private Street Works Acts, 1892
Public Health Acts Amendment Act, 1907.

II.—SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE DISTRICT.

(a) WATER.—This needs no further description, the supply from the Tynemouth Corporation continues to be ample and constant and averages about 330,000 gallons per day.

At the end of this year there were 2254 houses with private taps and 3699 houses supplied with water from stand pipes in the back streets. During the year 223 houses have been supplied with private taps and 223 water-closets and 212 baths have been fixed.

The are 42 houses situated in outlying parts of the district which are not connected with the public sewers.

All new and reconstructed drains are tested with water or smoke machine before being covered in.

(b) DRAINAGE.—The existing system of sewers may be divided into three groups, viz. : (a) Northern Ashington, draining northwards into Haydon Letch ; (b) Southern Ashington, draining into River Wansbeck ; (c) Hirst, including the Portland Estate, Western Milburn Estate, and Eastern Milburn Estate, all draining into the River Wansbeck. The condition of the Haydon Letch and the River Wansbeck at low tide is extremely foul.

By the new scheme, all the Ashington sewerage will be conveyed southward to North Seaton Station and thence eastward, along Newbiggin Lane, at which point it will be joined by the sewers from southern Hirst; the sewer continues in an easterly direction to Summerhouse Lane, where it is joined by the new sewer from Northern Hirst. At this point a Screening Chamber has been erected to remove detritus (coal dust, fine ashes and the floating debris brought down in the sewers). From Summerhouse Lane the sewer continues to near the south end of Newbiggin Bay, the point of discharge being at Spital Point. The mouth of the sewer will be taken well out to sea on the Black Scar rocks and discharge into deep water.

Extensive float tests were made to show the movement of the tides, which clearly prove that during both ebbing and flowing tides the sewerage will go out to sea and not be washed back into Newbiggin Bay.

The estimated cost of the works is about £120,000, which are being carried out under the direction of Messrs. Taylor & Wallin, Civil Engineers, of Newcastle-on-Tyne and Carlisle, who are the Engineers for this scheme.

(c) CLOSET ACCOMMODATION. There are approximately 4431 privies and 1438 water closets in the district.

During the year 11 privies have been converted into water closets.

The sewerage scheme being now practically complete there need be no further delay in proceeding with the conversion of privies to water-closets with the probability then of abolishing in great part the fly nuisance to which we are always subject in warm weather and which contributes to a large extent in the spread of infectious disease.

(d) SCAVENGING—This work is partly carried out by contract, the contractors providing tips, vehicles and labour. The ashpits are emptied fortnightly and the ashbins twice weekly. The collected material is deposited on tips approved by the Council.

The town is divided into seven districts, four of the districts are cleansed by private contractors and three districts by our own motors.

The work is under the supervision of the Council's Surveyor.

SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE DISTRICT—In accordance with the general order of the Ministry of Health your Inspector has by systematic inspection kept himself informed in respect of any nuisances existing within this district and the following list gives the nature of nuisances dealt with :—

The following defects are still common in the district :—

Unpaved Yards.

Animals kept in close proximity to buildings.

Fouling of middens with water.

Overcrowding.

In accordance with circular 120, dated 5th of August 1920, from the Ministry of Health, theatres and cinemas in the district have been inspected by the Sanitary Inspector.

(e) OFFENSIVE TRADES :—

Fish Friers	...	...	21
Gut Scrapers	...	...	2
Tripe Boilers	...	...	1
			—
			24

The trades of gut scrapers and tripe boilers are conducted on modern premises erected for the purpose, and were satisfactorily maintained.

FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS. The number on the register at the end of the year was as follows :—

Factories ... 10 Workshops ... 46 Bakehouses ... 10

1.—INSPECTION OF FACTORIES, WORKSHOPS AND WORKPLACES.

Including Inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors,

Premises. (1)	Number of		
	Inspections (2)	Written Notices (3)	Prosecutions. (4)
Factories (including Factory Laundries)	19	0	0
Workshops (including Workshop Laundries)	78	4	0
Workplaces (other than Outworkers' premises) ...	4	0	0
Total	101	4	0

2 —DEFECTS FOUND IN FACTORIES, WORKSHOPS AND WORKPLACES.

Particulars. (1)	Number of Defects.			No. of Prosecutions
	Found (2)	Remedied (3)	Referred to H.M. Ins. (4)	
Nuisances under the Public Health Acts :—				
Want of Cleanliness	4	4	0	0
Sanitary Accommodation (unsuitable or defective)	0	0	0	0
Failure to Fix Abstract	2	2	2	0
Total	6	6	2	0

REGISTERED WORKSHOPS.

Workshops on the Register at the end of the year.						Number
Bakers	...	...	...	...	...	6
Blacksmiths	...	...	...	...	...	5
Bootmakers and Repairers	...	...	...	...	...	10
Motor Cycle Repairers	...	...	...	...	...	5
Dressmakers and Milliners	...	...	...	...	...	9
Joiners and undertakers	...	...	...	...	...	7
Monumental Masons	...	...	...	...	...	1
Picture Framers	...	...	...	...	...	1
Plumbers	...	...	...	...	...	3
Stocking Knitter	...	...	...	...	...	1
Tailors	...	...	...	...	...	2
Underclothing	...	...	...	...	...	2
Watch Repairers	...	...	...	...	...	3
Wheelwrights and Coachbuilders	...	...	...	...	...	3
Saddler	...	...	...	...	...	2
Printers	...	...	...	...	...	2
Painters	...	...	...	...	...	4
Total Numbers of Workshops on Register						66

(f) SCHOOLS. There are 5 elementary schools. 4 of the schools have water closet sytem.

Under Regulations made by the Board of Education and by arrangement with the County School Medical Officer, 319 certificates of exclusion from attendance at public elementary schools on account of infectious diseases were issued. The number of children effected at each School is shown in the following table :—

Disease.	North		South		East		Bothal		St. Aidan's		Total
	Patients	Contacts	Patients	Contacts	Patients	Contacts	Patients	Contacts	Patients	Contacts	
Scarlet Fever ..	26	35	17	22	15	15	19	21	1	4	175
Diphtheria ..	1	0	0	0	1	2	1	8	0	0	8
Small Pox ..	45	181	8	50	9	46	8	38	1	12	399
	72	216	25	72	25	63	28	62	2	17	582

Remarks in previous Annual Reports on the subject of excluding all the children in any one home from school for six weeks during illness, due to the above infectious diseases and convalescence therefrom seems to be applicable as ever. The child suffering ought to be removed to an Isolation Hospital immediately the case is notified, and after disinfection of the house bedding and the clothing of the other inmates, it ought to be quite a practical proposition to allow the other children to return to school at once. Facilities for disinfection are now provided at the Isolation Hospital, and were these conditions fulfilled I think our past policy in regard to this matter might now be reconsidered with advantage to all concerned.

III. FOOD.

MILK SUPPLY. The bulk of the milk is imported into the district, and its condition during the summer months—probably due to delay and exposure in transit—give rise to many complaints.

Registered under the Dairies, Cowsheds and Milkshop Orders are :—

Wholesale Traders and Producers of Milk	...	8
Purveyors	... ..	19
„ over the counter only	... ..	24

The number of cowsheds is 8, and approximately 108 cows are kept. The sheds were generally found in a fairly clean condition, and regularly lime-washed.

OTHER FOODS. The class of cattle slaughtered is very good, but adequate examination of meat is impracticable, owing to the numerous premises on which slaughtering is conducted and the irregular hours at which the work is done.

The following food was destroyed after inspection, having been found unfit for human consumption :

17½ stones Chilled Beef.	46 lbs of Sausage.
21 stones of (Home killed) Beef.	2 Carcases of Mutton.
15 stones of „ „ Ox Livers.	10 stones of Pork.
3 pairs of Ox Lungs	

There are 18 slaughter houses, all subject to annual licence. Some are in close proximity to dwellings, and 6 of them are unsatisfactory, for one or more of the following reasons :—

Situated in close proximity to dwellings.

Inadequate in size, e.g., converted stables and wash-houses.

The erection of an abattoir has been under consideration for several years.

There are 10 bakehouses in the district—4 factory and 6 workshops—which require considerable supervision to secure the maintenance of reasonable cleanliness.

IV. PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

The total number of Infectious diseases notified this year is more than last year. Last year 772 cases were notified of which 97 were Scarlet Fever ; this year the total is 1035 with 140 cases of Scarlet Fever. Included in the total are 465 cases of Small Pox and 282 Chicken Pox. Chicken Pox was made notifiable in March, 1924.

1687 visits were paid to Infectious diseases.

The following premises were disinfected on account of Infectious diseases :—

526 Houses. 4 wards at Ashington Infirmary & Hospital and 1 Club.

The steam disinfectant at the Hospital has been in constant use during the year.

The following table gives the number of articles disinfected :—

422 Beds	729 Blankets	26 Covers and Rugs
359 Bolsters & Covers	685 Counterpanes	48 Eiderdowns
700 Pillows	366 Sheets	94 Cushions, etc.

Together with the wearing apparel of 490 Patients.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES HOSPITAL. There were 6 patients in Hospital on the 1st Jan. 1926. The number of cases admitted to Hospital during 1926 were 466 all small pox, 10 of which were admitted from Morpeth R.D. Council's area, 10 from Weetslade U.D. Council's area and 5 from Castle Ward R.D. Council's area. The Hospital was occupied 363 days of the year. The average stay in Hospital was 11 days. The expenditure amounted to £2051/9/7.

The following tables gives incidence, etc., of Enteric Fever in the district for the last 15 years :—

Enteric Fever	1912	1912	1914	1915	1916	1917	1918	1919	1920	1921	1922	1923	1924	1925	1926
No. of Cases..	20	25	24	3	10	30	88	76	13	19	1	3	6	2	11
Cases per 1000 population	0·74	0·89	0·80	0·12	0·38	1·17	3·30	2·81	·44	·63	·033	·10	·19	·063	·35
No. of Deaths	2	5	5	0	2	0	19	8	4	6	0	2	0	1	2
Mortality rate per 1000 population	0·07	0·17	0·16	0	0·98	0	0·76	0·30	·135	·20	0	·065	0	·0315	·063

During the year there has been 11 cases of enteric fever, two of which proved fatal. The origin of these cases lies probably in the fact that many carriers of the disease reside in our area. The mode of infection is probably determined by the common house fly carrying contagion direct to food from the infected excreta of the carriers, which has been deposited in the open privy-middens. The conversion of all privies to the water carriage system is urgently needed in order to minimise this serious menace to the public health of our area ; furthermore no greater progressive step could be taken that would benefit so much the health of all our inhabitants ; our heavy mortality from infantile diarrhœa would be reduced for the mode of infection is the same, i.e., house-fly contamination of food from the close proximity of privies.

SMALL POX. Small Pox has been widespread throughout our district during the year the epidemic continuing from the previous year and attacking only those unprotected by vaccination. The disease has remained of the mild type and although some moderately severe cases have occurred there is no tendency towards the virulent form of the disease and the case mortality has be nil.

Owing to the very mild nature of many of cases, sufferers have exposed themselves in all ignorance in Churches, Entertainment Hall, Buses, Clubs and other Public places. Other cases have been at work in the mines and children have been discovered to have been attending school with mild rash fully developed. The only control of the disease is vaccination and revaccination and this only can be relied upon in expelling the disease from our area. The great contagiousness of the disease is instanced in the fact that practically without exception where vaccination was refused second cases have occurred in the infected houses, where as where vaccination was performed in time there has been no second case.

All cases were promptly removed to Hospital on notification and houses disinfected, unfortunately this at the best can only diminish the risk of infection on account of the inability to diagnose the disease before the appearance of the rash and the consequent exposure during the period of greatest infectivity, the four days preceeding the appearance of the rash. In all cases the contacts were strongly recommended and offered vaccination and this was performed with the minimal delay when consent was obtained. Information of contacts residing outside our area was transmitted to the Medical Officers of Health for such areas and similar information received by me was speedily acted upon and vaccination offered at once.

Many very mild cases of the disease have undoubtedly been missed, and these have greatly increased the difficulties of dealing with the outbreak, time after time two or more cases occurring simultaneously in a house have been found to be due to a missed case in the house though never have I been able to attribute this fact to deliberate concealment of the first case.

From the appended tables the value of vaccination is strikingly illustrated, the figures give convincing proof of its value in preventing the disease and afford proof of what is required to expel the disease from our area. The measure, however, can only be applied on consent and many direct contacts apart from conscientious reasons prefer to run the risk of taking the disease rather than loss work from vaccination, to express their regrets when later they are removed to the Hospital with Small Pox.

During the year Chicken Pox has been a notifiable disease and all cases were visited, 12 were found to be suffering from Small Pox and were removed to Hospital.

CONTACTS Contacts are kept under observation by this department by periodic calls after the removal of the patient.

HOSPITAL. Accommodation for all our patients has been adequate throughout the year, though severely strained during March and April.

Distribution of cases in homes :—

In 1 house there were 10 cases	In 12 houses there were 4 cases each house
" 1 " " " 7 "	" 25 " " " 3 " " "
" 5 houses " " 6 " each house	" 47 " " " 2 " " "
" 9 " " " 5 " " "	" 156 " " " 1 " " "

Comparative since commencement of outbreak :—

1924 ... 238 cases 1925 ... 206 cases 1926 ... 465 cases

MONTHLY NOTIFICATIONS OF SMALL POX AND CHICKEN POX

	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	April	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
Small Pox—												
Ashington ...	12	27	25	24	9	8	3	7	4	2	6	12
Hirst ...	38	70	81	37	30	7	5	15	16	3	8	16
Total ...	50	97	106	61	39	15	8	22	20	5	14	28
											Total	465
Chicken Pox—												
Ashington ...	31	35	10	1	1	0	2	3	0	2	1	0
Hirst ...	50	43	43	17	7	1	4	6	5	9	6	5
Total ...	81	78	53	18	8	1	6	9	5	11	7	5
											Total	282

SMALL POX CASES GROUPED IN FIVE YEARLY PERIODS AND VACCINAL CONDITION.

VACCINATED IN INFANCY.

	0-5	5-10	10-15	15-20	20-25	25-30	30-35	35-40	40-45	45-50	50-55	55-60	60-65	65 up.	Total
January ..	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	3	4	0	0	0	0	9
February ..	0	0	0	0	0	1	2	1	4	3	7	6	2	1	27
March ..	0	0	0	1	0	2	0	5	1	5	5	4	4	2	29
April ..	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	2	5	6	5	1	0	1	22
May ..	0	0	0	1	0	2	0	1	1	2	2	3	2	0	14
June ..	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
July ..	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
August ..	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	1	1	0	0	4
September ..	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	2	1	0	0	0	5
October ..	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1
November ..	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	2
December ..	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	5	1	0	2	10
Total ..	0	0	0	2	1	7	6	11	14	24	26	16	9	7	123

UNVACCINATED.

January ..	6	9	4	9	4	3	5	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	41
February ..	5	14	17	16	9	4	3	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	70
March ..	13	15	13	21	8	4	2	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	77
April ..	4	7	6	13	3	4	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	39
May ..	4	1	3	10	2	2	2	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	25
June ..	1	6	4	2	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	15
July ..	2	3	1	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	8
August ..	3	7	4	2	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	18
September ..	1	4	4	3	0	0	1	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	15
October ..	0	3	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4
November ..	1	2	3	2	0	3	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	12
December ..	3	2	5	1	0	4	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	18
Total ..	43	73	65	79	30	24	15	8	3	1	0	1	0	0	342

	No. of Primary Cases	Contacts			No. of Secondary Cases
		Vaccinated.	Protected	Unprotected	
January ..	36	60	36	169	14
February ..	47	181	22	166	50
March ..	50	159	42	164	56
April ..	34	60	31	95	27
May ..	18	35	16	50	21
June ..	8	18	15	25	7
July ..	6	13	5	17	2
August ..	13	38	10	32	9
September ..	10	30	10	25	10
October ..	3	20	2	0	2
November ..	12	35	24	17	2
December ..	20	57	21	69	8
Total ..	257	706	234	829	208

STREETS AFFECTED.

Name of Street.	No. of Cases	No. of Houses	No. H's in St.	Name of Street.	No. of Cases	No. of Houses	No. H's in St.
Ellington Terrace	1	1	14	Sycamore St. ...	28	20	313
Long Row ...	1	1	33	Maple St. ...	38	26	299
Cross Row ...	7	2	16	Chestnut St. ...	32	16	306
High Market ...	6	3	79	Hawthorn Road ...	21	16	248
Wansbeck Terrace ...	2	2	49	Rosalind St. ...	16	10	209
Duke Street ...	4	2	30	Beatrice Street ...	6	4	130
Station Road ...	3	1	180	Katharine St. ...	8	4	131
Third Row ...	3	2	58	Portia St. ...	26	10	131
Fourth „ ...	11	5	71	Juliet St. ...	4	3	117
Fifth „ ...	16	6	96	Ariel St. ...	12	4	119
Sixth „ ...	8	3	49	Alexandra Road ...	3	3	59
Seventh „ ...	10	5	89	Milburn Road ...	10	6	147
Eighth „ ...	5	4	90	Pont St. ...	26	9	181
Ninth „ ...	7	6	94	Richardson St. ...	2	2	74
Tenth „ ...	2	1	100	South Villas ...	20	9	76
Arundel Square ...	3	3	26	East Villas ...	4	1	132
North View ...	2	2	18	Seventh Avenue ...	1	1	29
Six Houses ...	1	1	6	Monkseaton Terrace	6	6	37
Morven Terrace ...	1	1	36	Elder Square ...	1	1	39
Park Road (East) ...	2	1	27	Old Lane ...	1	1	1
Langwell Crescent ...	1	1	24	Castle Terrace ...	14	6	104
North Seaton Road	17	7	135	Acacia Terrace ...	3	2	26
Garden City Villas...	18	10	104	Bolsover „ ...	2	1	50
Woodhorn Road ...	11	7	218	Newbiggin Road ...	2	2	150
Laburnum Terrace	9	3	43				
Myrtle St. ...	9	6	89				
Poplar St. ...	22	11	112				
				Total	465	250	

SCARLET FEVER.—Notifications have increased this year to 140 in place of 97 last year. Of these 33 were below 5 years of age and 55 were of school age.

	1922	1923	1924	1925	1926
Number of cases	91	70	80	97	140
„ deaths	0	3	0	0	1
Attack rate per 1000 population	2·89	2·23	2·54	3·06	4·40
Deaths „	0	·097	0	0	·031
Case Mortality	0	4·35%	0	0	·71%

DIPHTHERIA.—Notifications this year being 4 compared with 9 last year.

	1922	1923	1924	1925	1926
Number of cases	5	1	7	9	4
„ deaths	2	0	1	0	1
Attack rate per 1000	·164	·03	·223	·28	·13
Death „	·066	0	·031	0	·031
Case Mortality	·40%	0	14·3%	0	·25%

10 cases were submitted for bacteriological examination and 10 were found to be negative. The antitoxin supplied by the Council for prophylaxis and for treatment amounted to 22 tubes containing 88,000 units.

PNEUMONIA.—Notifications this year are 42 compared with 25 last year. There were 35 deaths.

OPHTHALMIA NEONATORUM.

No	Notified	Cases Treated		Vision Unimpaired	Vision Impaired	Total Blindness	Deaths.
		At home	At hospital				
1	6-2-26	1	—	1	—	—	—
2	2-10-26	1	—	1	—	—	—
3	8-11-26	1	—	1	—	—	—
4	6-12-26	1	—	1	—	—	—

ENCEPHALITIS LETHARGICA.—There were two cases during the year with one death, a case mortality rate of 50%.

TUBERCULOSIS.—New Cases and Mortality During 1926.

Age Periods	New Cases				Deaths			
	Pulmonary		Non-Pul.		Pulmonary		Non-Pul.	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
1	0	0	3	3	0	0	3	1
5	5	2	1	3	1	0	0	0
10	0	0	1	2	1	0	0	0
15	1	2	0	0	0	0	0	0
20	4	5	2	2	1	2	1	1
25	7	7	0	1	4	2	0	1
35	3	3	1	0	3	2	0	0
45	4	0	0	0	4	1	1	0
55	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
65 upwds	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Totals	24	20	8	11	14	7	5	5

TUBERCULOSIS (PULMONARY).—Notifications were 44 in number, with 21 deaths.

	1922	1923	1924	1925	1926
Number of cases	... 36	40	45	47	44
" deaths	... 27	27	22	22	21
Attack rate per 1,000	... 1·181	1·29	1·43	1·47	1·38
Deaths	... 885	840	699	69	66
Case Mortality	... 75%	67·5%	49%	47%	47·7%

There are also 19 notifications of Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis, with 10 deaths giving a case mortality of 52%.

With housing conditions improving it is to be hoped that next year may show some definite improvement in our tuberculosis mortality. The figures for this year are similar to those for last year, and Tuberculosis still remains the most fatal notifiable disease to the district. The total Tuberculosis cases notified is 63, and the deaths registered therefrom is 31, giving a case mortality of 49%.

The following tables gives the number of houses from which cases of the three principal infectious diseases were notified :—

Disease	Number of cases	Houses effected
Enteric Fever ..	11	9
Scarlet Fever ..	140	130
Diphtheria ..	4	4

The following table issued by the Registrar General gives the attack rate of certain Infectious diseases throughout England and Wales in the second column.

Disease	Cases Notified in the District	Case rate per 1,000 living England & Wales	Case rate per 1,000 living in Ashington
Small Pox ..	465	0·26	14·60
Scarlet Fever ..	140	2·10	4·40
Diphtheria ..	4	1·31	·13
Enteric Fever ..	11	0·07	·35
Puerperal Fever ..	0	0·07	·0
Puerperal Pyrexia	5	0·19	·16
Erysipelas ..	17	0·38	·53

The following table gives the ages at incidence and the distribution of cases of notifiable infectious diseases during the year :—

Ashington Urban District. NOTIFIABLE INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

Ages at Incidence, 1926. (Ministry of Health Table No. 2).

Notifiable Diseases.	Cases notified in whole district at Ages—Years.							Total cases in each Ward		Cases removed to Hospital	
	At all Ages	Under 1	1 to 5	5 to 15	15 to 25	25 to 65	65 etc.	A	H	A	H
Diphtheria ...	4	0	0	3	0	1	0	2	2	0	0
Scarlet Fever...	140	0	33	98	7	2	0	40	100	0	0
Erysipelas ...	17	0	0	0	1	14	2	8	9	0	0
Enteric Fever ...	11	0	0	2	3	6	0	4	7	0	4
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	4	4	0	0	0	0	0	1	3	0	0
Cerebro Spinal Fever ...	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Tuberculosis, Lung ...	44	0	1	7	12	24	0	14	30	0	0
Tuberculosis, other Forms	19	0	6	6	4	3	0	5	14	0	0
Pneumonia ...	42	2	10	8	7	13	2	16	26	0	0
Puerperal Fever ...	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Dysentery ...	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total ...	281	6	50	124	34	63	4	90	191	0	4

Ashington Urban District. NOTIFIABLE INFECTIOUS DISEASES
DISTRIBUTION 1926.

Month	Diphtheria		Scarlet Fever		Erysipelas		Enteric Fever		Ophthalmia Neonatorum		Phthisis		Other Tubercular Diseases		Pneumonia		Small Pox		Monthly Total		
	A	H	A	H	A	H	A	H	A	H	A	H	A	H	A	H	A	H	A	H	Both
January ...	0	0	0	5	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	2	0	0	12	38	13	46	59
February ...	0	0	3	11	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	6	0	0	1	2	27	70	32	90	122
March ...	1	0	10	8	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	2	0	0	25	81	37	93	130
April ...	0	0	6	8	2	1	0	0	0	0	1	2	1	1	2	2	24	37	36	51	87
May ...	0	0	6	6	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	1	1	0	7	8	9	30	24	46	70
June ...	0	0	3	6	0	2	0	0	0	0	2	0	2	1	2	0	8	7	17	16	33
July ...	0	1	1	8	0	2	0	0	0	0	1	9	0	2	0	4	3	5	5	31	36
August ...	0	0	3	6	1	0	0	1	0	0	1	3	0	2	0	0	7	15	12	27	39
September ...	0	0	3	9	1	0	2	0	0	0	2	1	0	0	0	0	4	16	12	26	38
October ...	1	0	3	18	1	0	2	4	0	1	1	2	0	1	1	4	2	3	11	33	44
November ...	0	1	3	8	0	1	1	1	1	0	1	1	1	3	1	4	6	8	14	27	41
December ...	0	0	0	6	0	1	0	0	0	1	4	2	0	0	2	2	12	16	18	28	46
Total ...	2	2	41	99	8	9	5	6	1	2	14	30	5	14	16	26	139	326	131	514	745
	4		140		17		11		3		44		19		42		465				

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES DURING THE YEAR.

Disease.					Total Cases Notified.	Cases admitted to Hospital.	Total Deaths.
Small Pox	...	—	...	...	465	441	0
Diphtheria	...	...	...	...	4	0	1
Scarlet Fever	...	...	...	...	140	0	1
Enteric Fever (including Paratyphoid)	...	...	...	...	11	0	2
Puerperal Fever	...	...	...	...	0	0	0
Pneumonia	...	...	...	...	42	5	35
Tuberculosis :—							
(a) Pulmonary	(M	24	...	...	44	0	21
	(F	20	...	...	
(b) Non. do.	(M	8	...	...	19	0	10
	(F	11	...	...	

HOUSING.

The original estimate of the number of houses required to meet the needs of the district was 2,000 under the State Aided Scheme ; 883 houses have been erected during the last six years.

The shortage of houses in the district is still very acute, at the present rate of house building the prospects of the majority of these applicants getting a house is very remote.

Number of new houses erected during the year :—

(a) Total	...	...	...	...	212
(b) As part of a municipal housing scheme	...	...	...	...	50

1. UNFIT DWELLING HOUSES.

Inspection.—(1) Total number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	...	...	...	...	282
(2) Number of dwelling houses which were inspected and recorded under the Housing (Consolidated) Regulations 1925	...	...	...	...	98
(3) Number of dwelling houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for habitation	...	...	...	...	Nil
(4) Number of dwelling houses (exclusive to those referred to under the preceding sub-heading) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation.	...	...	...	...	251

2. REMEDY OF DEFECTS WITHOUT SERVICE OF FORMAL NOTICES.

Number of defective dwelling houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers	185
---	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----

3. ACTION UNDER STATUTORY POWERS.

A—Proceedings under section 3 of the Housing Act 1925.

(1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs	...	...	...	...	31
(2) Number of dwelling houses which are rendered fit :—					
(a) by owners	...	...	...	...	26
(b) by Local Authority in default of owners	...	...	...	...	—
(3) Number of dwelling houses in respect to which Closing Orders became operative in pursuance of declarations by owners of intention to close	...	...	...	...	—

B—Proceeding under Public Health Acts.

(1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	...	...	...	...	94
(2) Number of dwelling houses in which defects were remedied after Service of Formal Notices :—					
(a) by owners	...	...	...	...	91
(b) by Local Authority in default of owners	...	...	...	...	—

C—Proceedings under sections 11, 14 & 15 of the Housing Act, 1935.

(1) Number of representations made with a view of the making of Closing Orders	—
(2) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Closing Orders were made	—
(3) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the dwelling houses have been rendered fit	—
(4) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made	—
(5) Number of dwelling houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders	—

SUGGESTED RECOMMENDATIONS.

- (1) As Sections 39 to 42 of the Public Health Acts, (Ammendment) Act 1907, are now in force, the speedy conversion of all privies is urgently recommended for no greater step could be taken in improving the Public Health of this area. The speediest advantage of the full use of the new sewer should be taken without hesitation for the benefits to this community outweigh all other measures and at the same time would in my opinion prove economically sound in saving of expenses incurred by the present scavenging system.
- (2) That adequate Hospital accommodation for the isolation and treatment of cases of infectious diseases be provided. All available accommodation has been found necessary for cases of Smallpox alone.
- (3) That a separate water supply be provided for each house in the district. The storage of water in houses practised in this district is strongly condemned.

I have to thank the various Council Officials who have so kindly co-operated in the preparation of the various Tables and other statistical matter necessary for the preparation of this Report.

I have the honour to be,

Your obedient servant.

EDWARD T. COLVILLE, M.B., B.S., B.H.V., D.P.H.

Medical Officer of Health.

